



THE WALKING DEAD

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KIRKMAN
MOORE



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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

ROBERT KIRKMAN

Creator, Writer, Letterer

TONY MOORE

Penciler, Inker

CLIFF RATHBURN

Gray Tones

FOR IMAGE COMICS

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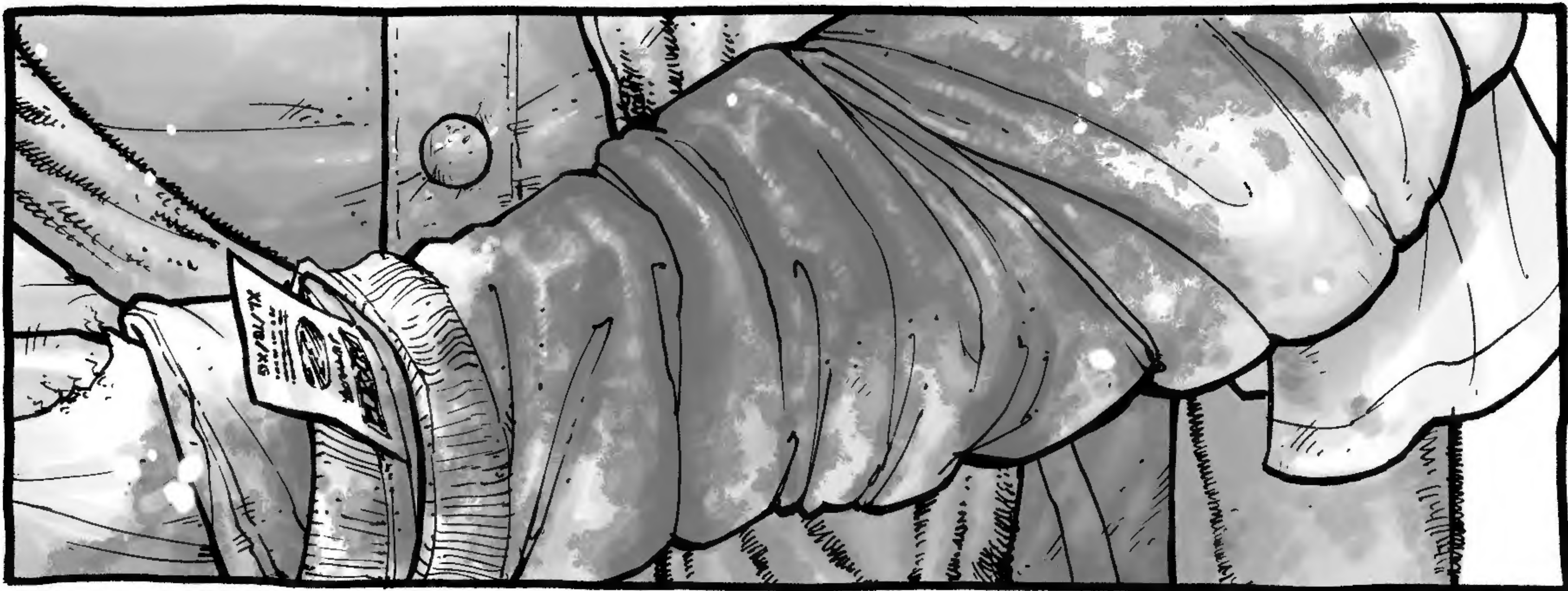
Jon Malin **Cindie Espinoza**
Production Assistant Accounting Assistant



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THE WALKING DEAD VOL. 1 #6.

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DO YOU
NEED MORE
BLANKETS?

NO...

...I'M
FINE.



THIS SHOULD
COOL YOUR
FACE DOWN
A LITTLE.

THANKS...



BOSS AT MY GARAGE...
FIRST GUY I SAW ATTACKED.
HE TURNED IN A COUPLE
HOURS. NO ONE'S EVER
LASTED MORE THAN A
DAY... NOT AFTER
BEING BITTEN.

GUESS
I'M LUCKY.



MAYBE
YOU WON'T
TURN. NOBODY
KNOWS
ANYTHING FOR
SURE.



YEAH...



IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING... JUST
GIVE US A **YELL**.
SOMEONE WILL
COME GET ME
IF I DON'T
HEAR.



THANKS FOR CHECKING IN
ON HIM, HON. ALL THE OTHER
GIRLS ARE TOO **SCARED** TO
GET NEAR HIM AND HE WON'T
LET ANY OF THE MEN
TOUCH HIM.

HOW
IS HE?

WORSE.



IF WHAT **DALE** SAID
ABOUT HIS WIFE IS TRUE...
HE HASN'T GOT LONG TO
GO. **DALE'S** WIFE TURNED
IN ABOUT HALF A **DAY**.
JIM'S GOING THROUGH
THE SAME STUFF...
IT'S JUST TAKING
LONGER FOR
HIM.



HE SAYS HIS WHOLE
BODY IS **FREEZING**
BUT HE'D ALMOST
BURN YOU IF YOU
TOUCHED HIM. HE'S
STILL GOT HIS WITS
THOUGH... WE'LL
SEE.



MAYBE
IT WON'T
HAPPEN
TO HIM.



YEAH...



WE DON'T HAVE TO GET AS MUCH AS USUAL, DAD. AMY'S DEAD... AND JIM'S TOO SICK TO EAT.



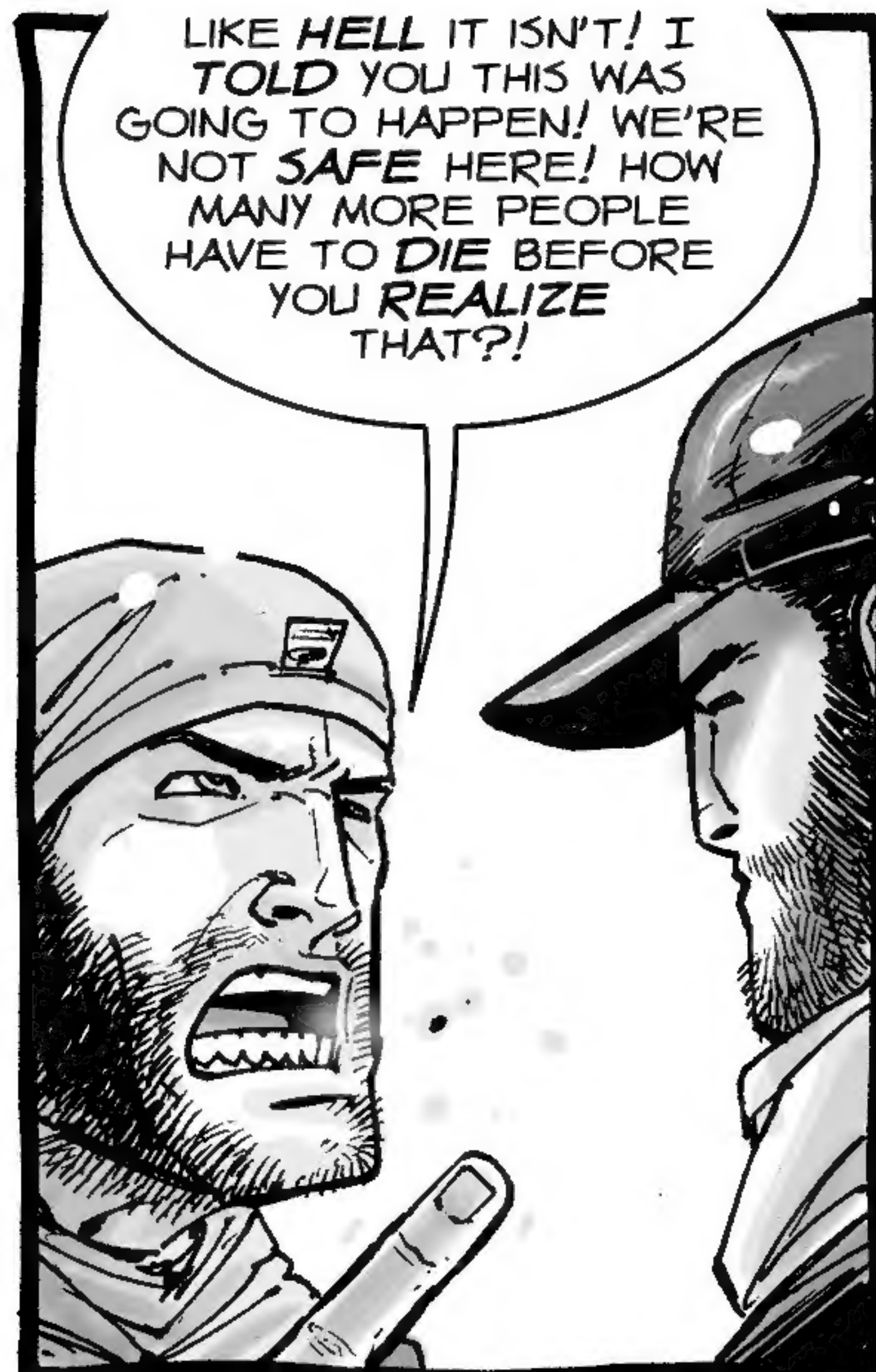
I KNOW, SON... I KNOW.



GOD DAMMIT, RICK! IT'S NOT MY FUCKING FAULT!!



LIKE HELL IT ISN'T! I TOLD YOU THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN! WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE! HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE BEFORE YOU REALIZE THAT?!



IF I THOUGHT WE COULD SURVIVE ON OUR OWN I'D LEAVE THE REST OF YOU HERE AND TAKE CARL AND LORI WITH ME! WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, SHANE! LET'S SIPHON WHAT LITTLE GAS WE HAVE OUT OF THE CARS AND INTO DALES CAMPER AND GO. TODAY... RIGHT NOW... LET'S JUST GET AWAY FROM THE CITY-- FIND SOMEPLACE SAFE!



THINK RICK! WE'LL BE LOST OUT THERE. THE ARMY IS GOING TO DRIVE THROUGH HERE ANY DAY NOW WITH SUPPLIES AND SHELTER AND ALL THIS WILL JUST GO AWAY... I DON'T WANT TO RISK BEING OUT IN THE COUNTRY... I DON'T WANT TO RISK BEING LEFT BEHIND!



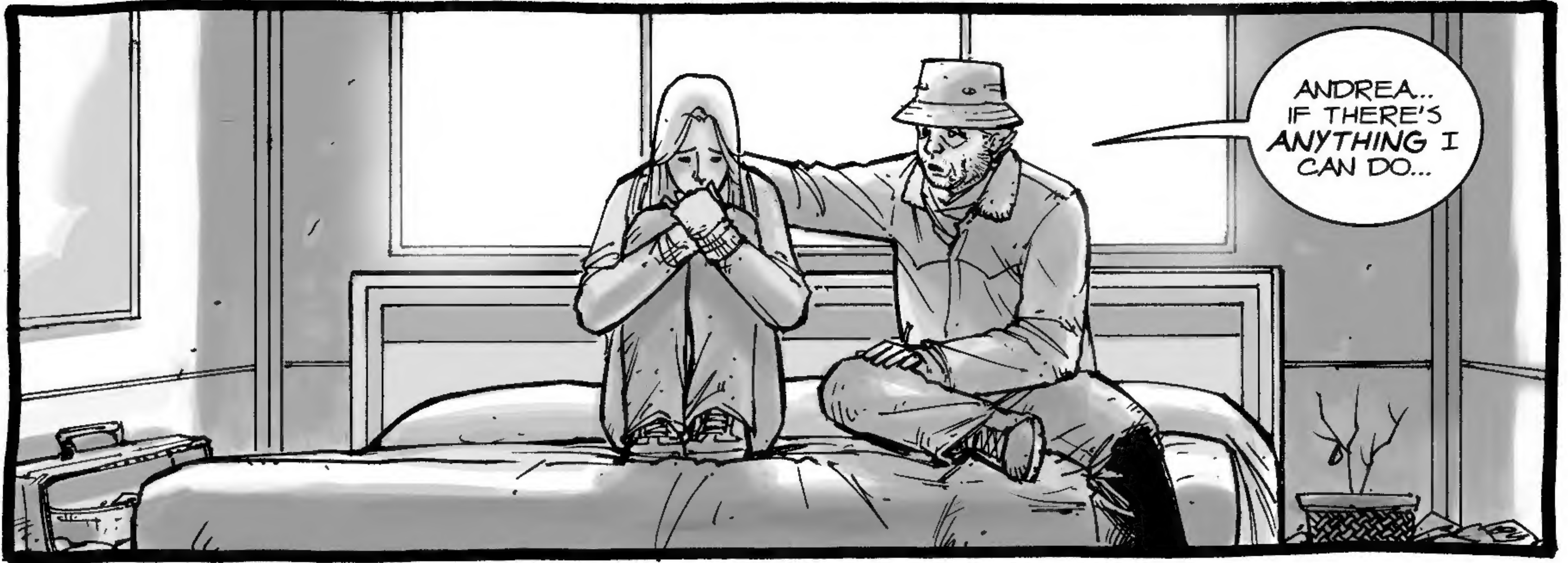
WHAT ARE YOU BASING THAT ON?! WHAT INDICATION DO WE HAVE THAT WE'RE NOT THE ONLY SURVIVORS!?! WHAT WAS THAT ATTACK ON THE CAMP? ARE THEY HUNTING IN PACKS NOW? WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THEM!



WE'RE NOT SAFE!!

CARL!!







NO... WE CAN'T
DO THAT TO YOU.
YOU COULD START
GETTING **BETTER**.
THIS WOULD BE
MURDER.

DONNA...
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
I CAN **FEEL** IT
COMING. THIS--
YOU GOTTA
DO THIS.
I--



=COUGH!=

=COUGH!=



PLEASE... THEY
HAVE TO DO THIS
FOR ME. T--TALK THEM
INTO IT. IT'S THE ONLY
WAY I'LL EVER BE
WITH MY FAMILY
AGAIN...



JIM KNOWS
WHAT HE
WANTS TO
DO...



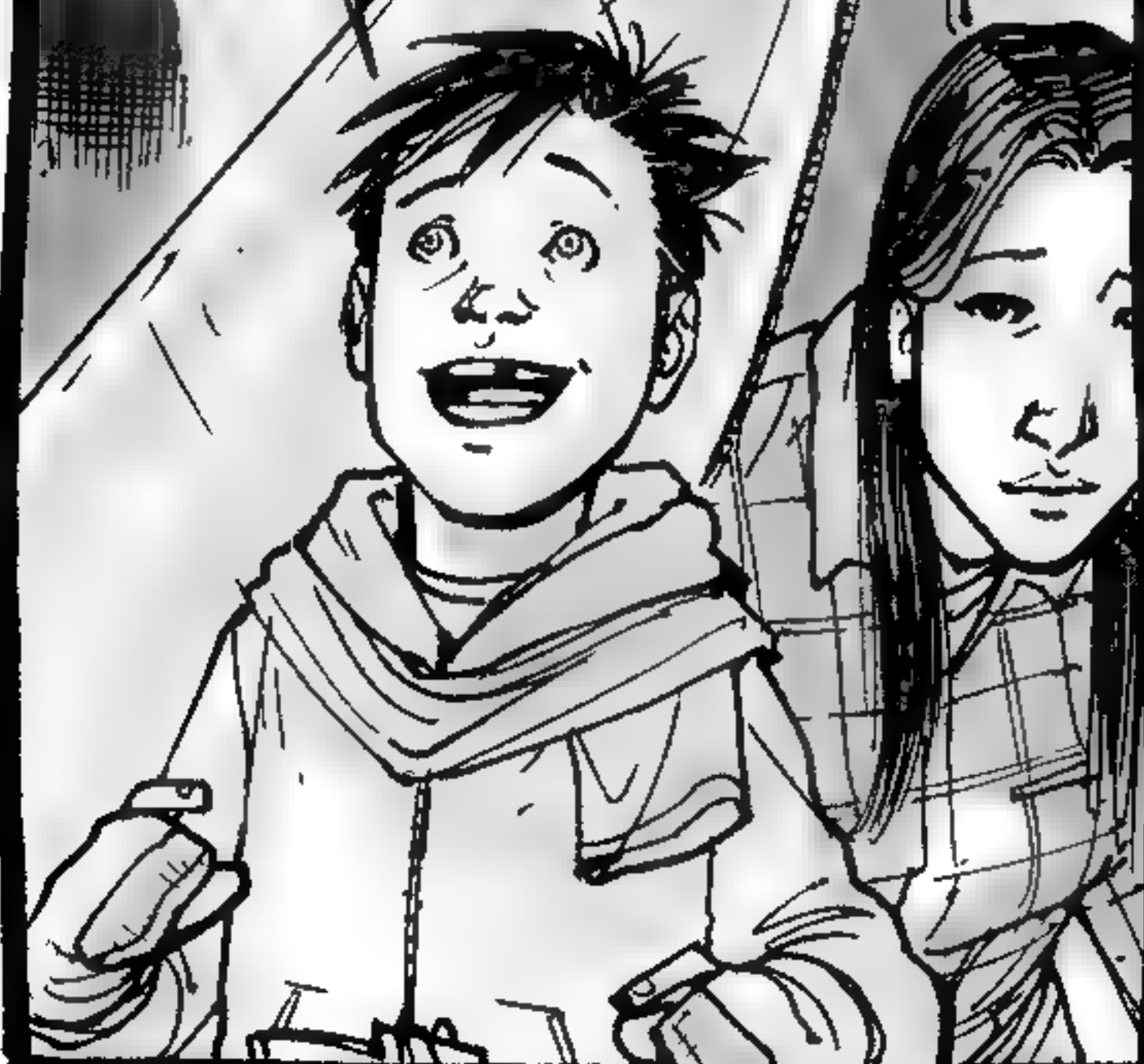




JUST GIVE ME A
FEW MINUTES TO
WAKE UP AND I'LL
BE READY TO
GO.

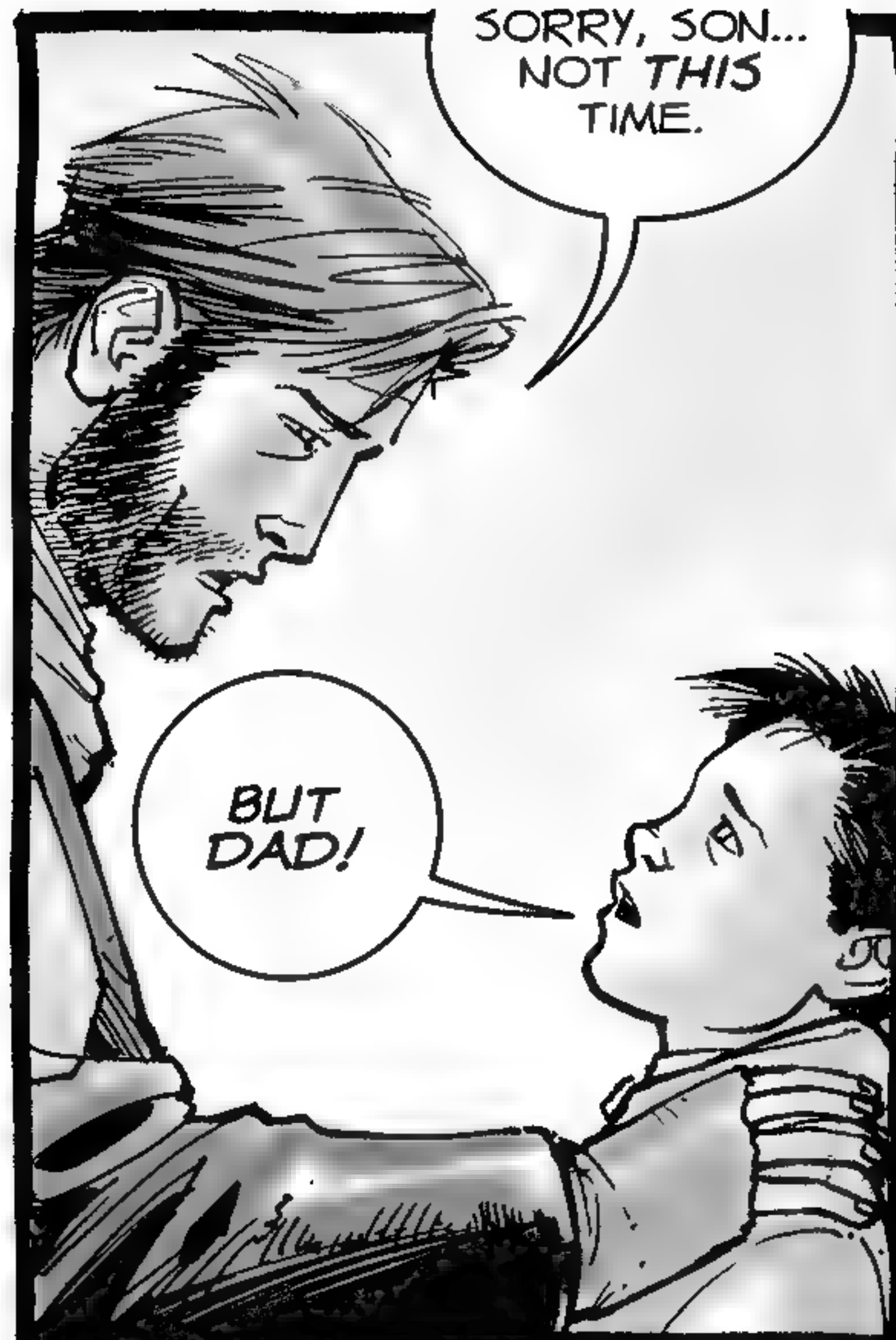


CAN
I GO,
TOO?



SORRY, SON...
NOT THIS
TIME.

BUT
DAD!



C'MON,
RICK. WHY
NOT LET
HIM COME
ALONG?



BECAUSE...
WE NEED
TO TALK,
SHANE.

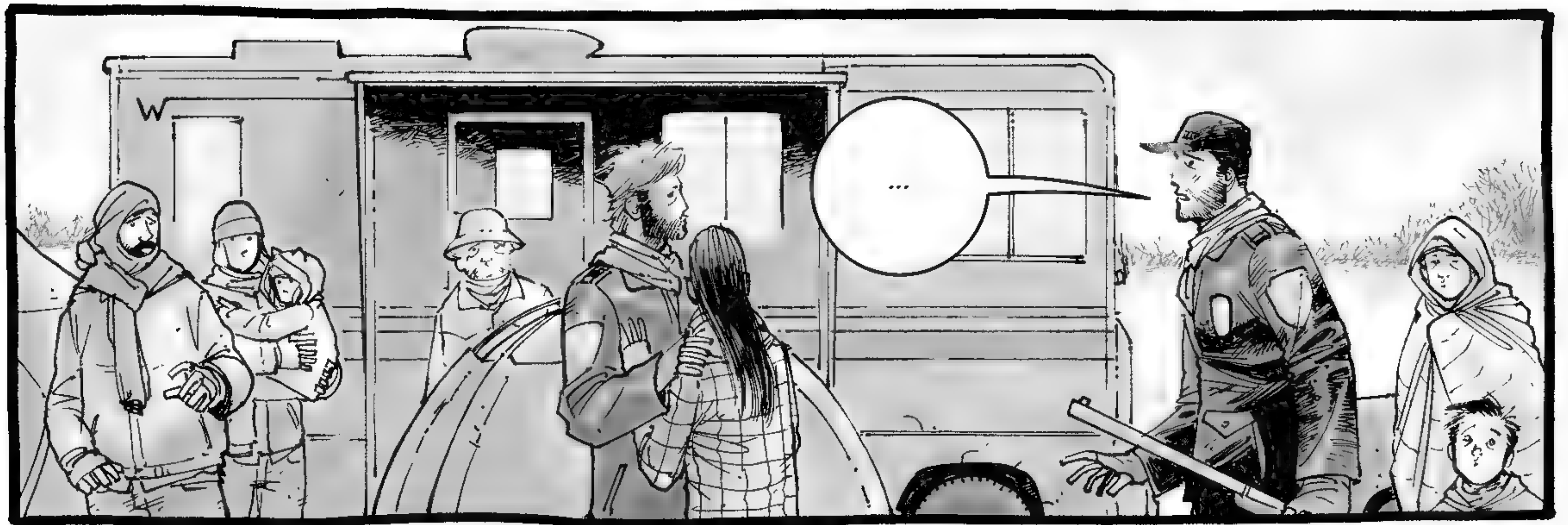


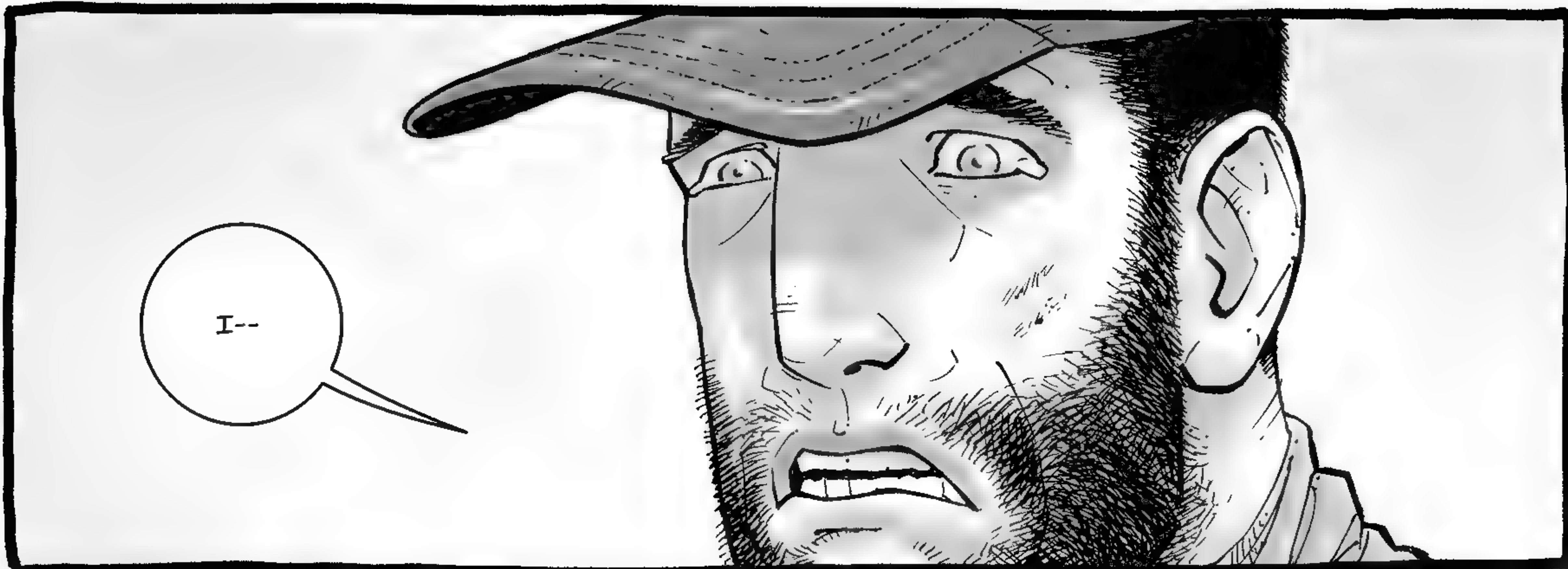
WHAT
DO WE
HAVE TO
TALK
ABOUT?

WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
THINK?












WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO US?



LORI,
ARE YOU
OKAY?



IT'S
NEVER
GOING TO BE
THE SAME
AGAIN. WE'RE
NEVER GOING
TO BE
NORMAL...

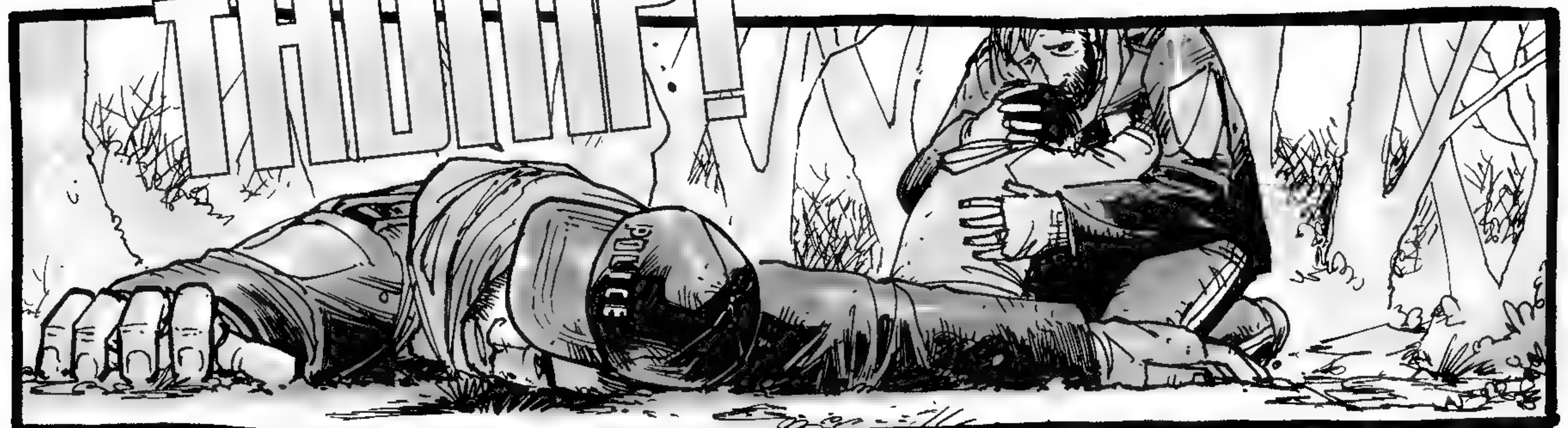
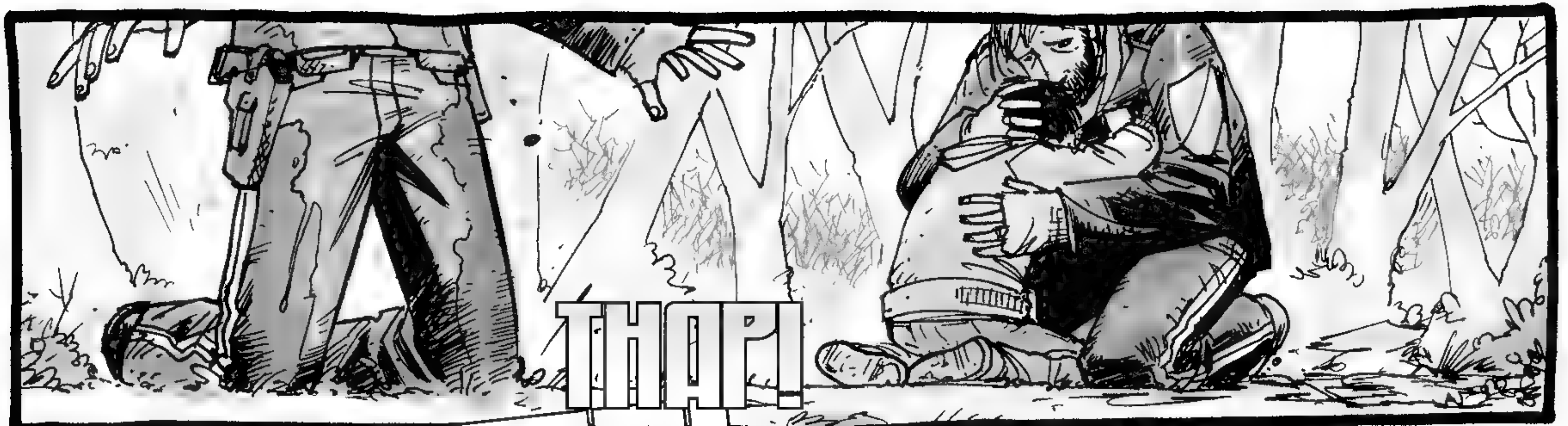


JUST
LOOK
AT US.











IT
NEVER
SHOULD
BE, SON.

IT
NEVER
SHOULD
BE.

THE WALKING DEAD™

SNOWBOUND
NEW STORY ARC!

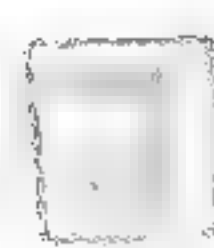


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**by Robert Kirkman
and Tony Moore**



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

I realize I'm starting to sound like a broken record but as I type this I just found out today that our sales for issue 7 shot up another 2000 copies. That's just unheard of in today's market, especially for a black and white book... so thanks for the continued support people. We really appreciate it.

Speaking of appreciating I'd like to take this time to thank Cliff Rathburn for coming in at the last minute and pitching in on the gray tones for this issue. Thanks Cliff... you did a swell job!!

Now, onto the mail.

Misters Moore and Kirkman,

On a Wednesday at the Isotope I'm always busy as fucking hell, I spend every minute of my day entertaining a big group of crazy-cool customers, talking comics, and (of course) pimping comic books. Don't get me wrong, Wednesdays are my favorite day of the week, I really love the high energy crowd and the manic party atmosphere that we have every week, but I rarely get a chance to check out the latest wares until the doors are locked and the lights are off.

But with WALKING DEAD #4 in the store you know I had to take some time out of my day to read that sucker, and good lord can you imagine my shock to see my dead and rotting self laying there in a big pile of bodies?!? Now I certainly consider it quite an honor to be dead in one of my favorite books and you know it absolutely made my day! You guys are just too good to me.

So I thought I'd also take a little more time out of my Wednesday to say thanks for the great surprise... and for making such a kick ass comic book. Keep up the terrific work!

James Sime
Isotope - the comic book lounge
San Francisco
<http://www.isotopecomics.com>

James Sime ladies and gentlemen! James, you were one of the first people I spotted that were talking this book up and I can't help but think you've had a hand in its success. So to thank you... I got Tony to draw you all dead and rotting. It was his idea to have your guts all hanging out though... so thank him for that. Keep up the good work, man... it's good to know that people are out there busting their ass to sell these things.

Hey guys,

Been reading the series since the 3rd issue... found #1 so all I'm missing is #2. At any rate I don't buy many single issues of anything, but you've pulled off a very convincing tale about zombies.

This is great.
Can't wait for the trades. Well, everything that can

be said has already been said, so I'll just end with keep up the good work!

B. Alex Thompson

You'll be glad to know that a second printing of issue 2 should have hit shelves sometime around issue 5 making it to stores. A lot of people were complaining about missing issue 2. If you missed out on the second printing the TPB should be out about a month after this issue.

I'm going to give you another reason why The Walking Dead is one of the best books on the market now; it's going to bring in new comic readers.

2004 is going to be a HUGE year for zombie fans. The Dawn of the Dead remake and the Resident Evil Sequel will not only thrill fans of this unique horror creation, but we will see much new blood brought into the zombie loving fold. This is why the whole of the comic community should get behind The Walking Dead. An amazingly accessible book with gruesome black and white pencils that will get anyone who appreciates cinematic storytelling coming back for more, this book has it all!

Hat's off to you taking the time to kill potential fanboy Internet backlash with your explanation of the price of the upcoming trade paperback. The catch 22 situation with those who buy trades only is definitely a hot spot in comic circles of late, and it's good to see a creator giving his two cents on this subject. I find myself on both sides of the issue often but I tend to buy creator owned books monthly as oppose to trades. Your book has entered into my exclusive list of comics that I buy in trade as well as monthly now because after reading Letter Hacks I know you are creators who deserve as much as I can give. The real reason is that I don't want to let my non-comic reading friends borrow my issues when I make my pitch for them to pick up this series...and join the growing ranks of comic book fandom.

P.S. Have you read Max Brook's "The Zombie Survival Guide"?

- Nick Borelli,

I've got a copy of the survival guide, but haven't read it yet, someday though. Nothing would make me happier than knowing I got just ONE guy to starting reading comics because of his (or her) love of Zombie flicks. Let's hope you're right... this industry could use a few more people addicted to these thin little picture books.

Hey guys-

I've never written to a comic book before, but after reading the letter column to issue 4, I realized you guys are missing an essential part of the typical letter column. So, here goes...

"Man, I hate this book! You guys suck! You're ruining Rick's life, not to mention Lori's! I can't believe Image is allowing you guys to breathe, let alone publish! Eat \$*# and die, mother#)^#@&^s!"

Ok, now that you've gotten a negative letter, everything'll work out fine!

Seriously, love the book! I'm a Manager of a comic book store (Golden Apple II in Northridge) and I have been promoting your book shamelessly since #1! Just wondering if you guys ever make it to Southern Cali? If so, I would LOVE to have you at my shop for a signing! Maybe the San Diego Con (or Wizard's Long Beach shin-dig in March)?

Well, keep up the good work and, hey, one other thing:

If Image ever asks you to do a variant cover (or a holofoil, or a red foil, or a...well, you get the picture), use that ax Rick carries around and start chopping!

Sincerely,

Warren Jaycox

I have variants, if I can help it... I hope to never do a book that has variant covers. It just bugs me having different looking copies of the SAME book... but that's just me. So no worries on the variant cover thing. If I'm ever in California again, I'll look you up. I'd personally love to do a signing. Might even drag Tony along if he behaves. Keep in touch, and thanks for the support. Oh, and I printed a negative letter in issue 5, so your email really just hurts my feelings, asshole.

Robert & Tony,

I just had the pure enjoyment of reading Walking Dead 1-3(#4 is waiting in my hold box at the comic store). I don't think there has been a better comic in this genre in a long time. There have been quite a few "horror" comics coming out in the last two years, but nothing this well written or this well drawn. This is the best thing Image has released since Midnight Nation. In a way, it makes me nostalgic for the days when Vince Locke was doing Dead World, it gives me that excited(I feel like I'm fourteen again) feeling every time a new issue comes out. Do you remember Dead World? I hope I'm reading this comic for a long, long time! Keep up the great work and I'll keep telling my customers at the comic store that they need this comic more than food, air, & water.

Thanks for not letting a zombie fan down.

David Richardson

I think I'm going to start running a FAQ section at the top of every letters column that says "Dead World and Max Brooks Zombie Survival Guide have been purchased thanks to recommendations in letter hacks, but the creators have yet to find time to read them." I got some Dead World stuff on Ebay and I'll try to get to it soon. It's just... I've got issues of X-men to read, people!!

Hi

Wow is all I can say about The Walking Dead. This is one of the best comics out there. Robert catches the mood of the great Zombie movies perfectly. I'm really waiting to see the confrontation between Rick and Shane me thinks one of the Walking Dead.

Great Stuff Great Job
Paul Abblitt.

What makes you think there's a confrontation coming up between Shane and Rick? I'll tell you right now... NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN. Those guys are FRIENDS. Haven't you been paying attention?

My friend Mike turned me on to your book and boy am I glad he did. It's been a good 5 years since I have found myself enthralled with a title enough that I actually visit my local comic store and nag them if the next issue is in yet. I just got finished reading number 4 and you have treated the genre of zombie stories better than any one else I have seen in print. I have enjoyed how the story has evolved and that you have left the reader in the dark as to the origins of the zombie plague just as the main character Rick is.

As a fan of the Romero trilogy, I always felt that the zombies were incidental to the story and the real power of the tale was how ordinary people react to mortal danger and the collapse of society as they know it. I'm very interested to see how the band of survivors at the camp react when they realize that help isn't coming, and that traditional morality has no role in the world that they find themselves in.

Keep up the good work.

p.s. I love the nod to Duane Jones (the name of the actor who played Ben in the original Night of the Living Dead, may he rest in peace.) in issue #1, keep the fan boy references coming!

Eric R. Weiss

Heh... fan boy references will be slipped in as much as I can. I'm trying to keep you guys happy. I'm glad you like my approach Eric. I really respect zombie horror as a genre and I'm just out to do the most interesting tale I can no matter what. I hope most of you didn't notice but this issue has NO zombies in it. That's going to happen from time to time (not too often though, so don't worry). "The Walking Dead" does NOT refer to the zombies in this book.

Walking

Hey man this is a piece of great work you got here. Man I just can't say how much I like this story (I like this story!) Well I guess you guys get that a lot. Here's my scoreboard:

Art 10.0
Plot 10.0
Color 10.0

You scored 100.0 points (its supposed to be 30.0pts but I like this book.) One question: How about making toys of your characters? Try asking Todd Mcfarlane.

Drayco

Whoa!! We got a 10 for color and there ISN'T ANY!! We kick ASS!!! Oh, and Todd... you listening? I'm ready for toys when you are!

Dudes I read your letter at the end of number 1. I whole heartedly agree, thank you for this
Please make more

Crazyphysicist

We'll try, we're no Doritos but I'll see what we can do.

Dear Robert & Tony—

I just got issue #4 a couple of days ago, and have probably read it seven or eight times since.

I have to say, with this issue your title has gone from being a comic I'm thrilled reading, as something bursting with promise, to a title that is really starting to deliver on that promise.

And when it gets to showing your cards in a story, delivering on the promise you've made when you say, "Come here, I have a story to tell," that's usually when things get disappointing...

I almost don't know where to start... On the zombie side, I love the addition to the lore (which you thankfully seem to be following pretty closely according to the Philadelphia model) this issue brings. I, myself, have wondered what keeps zombies from attacking each other willy-nilly, unerringly honing in on the living. I found your answer very satisfying, but I found your use of it fucking stunning. The half-splash of the zombies jammed up against the tank was thrilling, and getting to move among a throng of the undead with our heroes, undetected, was all the things you want from a horror experience: creepy, exciting, nerve-wracking. The thing is, those of us who love the zombies are very familiar with the tropes: flesh eating, the mob, artillery, infection and half-measures, the transfiguration of those closest to us into brainless monsters... all that. But that walk through zombie infested Atlanta felt like something I'd never seen before, and it was really exciting.

And that's secondary to what I'm enjoying most in The Walking Dead, which is the human drama — watching our heroes deal emotionally and practically to a world that's been overrun, hostile and desolate. A world which, I might add, is easier and easier to imagine coming to be with each passing year. I was very enthusiastic to read your manifesto about the title's intended goals. It put me in mind of some of my favorite Japanese comics, where the story unfolds slowly, accruing character as it goes, almost closer to the pace of life than a novel, even. I think you're succeeding quite well there, and I thank you for it.

I also think you're getting the mix of drama to action just right. Good job.

I have a technical question for Tony. Do you do your "coloring" with a computer? Or are you working the greys more traditionally, by hand and stuff?

Greyscale comics generally aren't my thing, I like stark black and white or lush colors. But I agree with you guys, black and white, in the more cinematic palette, is absolutely appropriate for this. Heightens it, in fact. Maybe because we associate black and white photography with an era before modern special effects, and of course contemporary films inform our take on visual entertainments across mediums. So, black and white equals more real, somehow. Just a little theory I'm working up, I don't know. Without question it's great for the compositions. Obviously you're changing my thinking about this comics-in-greys situation. I love your drawing style, by the way. I aspire to developing something similar. Great zombies, too.

Oh, one last thing. Rick's family is alive. And he found 'em. I wasn't expecting that angle. Boy, how's about having something to lose, right? Great stuff. Issue #4's "terrible revelation" at the end is not about cars going over cliffs, nor our heroes surrounded (no, you gave us that with the peek at Issue #5's cover — dizzy with anticipation, here), but more devastating, in fact. The human drama. Fantastic.

Keep up the good work, sirs. Here's to a long, interesting run.

Thanks again,
Andrew Garcia-Price

Letters like these make it all worthwhile. We sit in our rooms all alone doing the best work we can, hoping people get it... and to find that you (and most people) are responding to this book so

favorably is really something special. I can't that you (and guys like you) enough. You rock. Tony does the tones on the computer, it's all done in Photoshop.

Dear Walking Dead:
I had to take a breather from watching USA Channel's true dramatic

stories DC Sniper: 23 Days of Fear and The Perfect Husband: The Laci Peterson Story, to read The Walking Dead #3! Tonight I went from dramatic reality of watching the above mentioned movies to reading a story that would make George Romero shiver in his boots! The grisly scene of seeing that dead man chomping down on a deer gave me the heebie

jeebies. Even though this comic book is done in black and white, the artwork is very realistic. The hatchet beheading left me speechless. This is the best horror comic book on the market today. I love the outdoorsy tone of the story and I will not be going out camping for a long time. What Jaws did for swimmers, this comic book does for people who love the woods and outdoors. It's time to stay in the house, turn on all the lights before reading this comic book again! A job well done! I am an Office Manager for a government political job (my real job) here in Sacramento, California and have actually seen Vice President Dick Cheney, shook hands with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Black Panther Bill Jennings. At times my own reality is surreal and it's nice to take a break from the political madness. Avoiding the media swarms, like CNN News trucks parked in front of our building during the Recall Gray Davis campaign and so on. I take my break from my own surreal reality and step into a world that is filled with horror and terror and the best way to do that is by reading your comic book! I give you a cordial bow and salute you for a comic book that is superior in everyway! I will be going to Moscow, Russia on vacation in April and I will be bringing your comic book with me, to re-read on the long flight over there.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Dale Roberts

There was a Black Panther before T'Challa? What haven't I heard of this?! Do I smell a no-prize? Glad you like the book, Paul.

Letter Hacks:

Dammit this series rocks. I really tensed up when they went into the city. The dialogue comes across very well between everyone, and the drama between Lori and Shane keeps getting better. Tony's art makes everything oh so juicy, I'm loving it. Thanks, and keep up the great work!

Sincerely,
Ryan Walsh

No more McDonald's slogans in letters please, Ryan. Unless it's "Food, Folks, and Fun." That one was the best. Anyone ever try to order the "Folks" and "Fun?" We should have sued those assholes.

Hey I just wanted to take a minute to write and say what an excellent book y'all have. As of late there are a lot more horror comics on the rack and you guys have managed to put out one of the best. The story and the art are always great. The story is well developed as well as the characters, which is sometimes difficult in any zombie story, 'cause unlike other monsters zombies don't have any character traits like vampires and werewolves, they're kinda like a force of nature if you will. So you have to really invest in and like the characters to keep interested with the story, even though some characters are pretty much zombie food. Moving on to the art, Tony gives stark and vivid images that are gorgeous (please keep it black and white). The attention to detail on the zombies is hardcore and should make any horror fan happy. Overall you have one of the best books on the market not just in horror comics but comics in general.

Thanks and keep up the good work,
Matthew G.

Didn't you hear? Black and White is the new color! We're at the front of a craze wave that's going to be sweeping the world by storm. Black and White 4-ever!!

Dear LetterHacks,

Wow. Issue four was amazing. This continued quality just keeps elevating the overall book. But issue four was something special.

Tony's art has been complimented by myself and others many times but man, does he also know how to make a cover. Each cover to Walking Dead is brilliant and makes me want to rip open the book and figure out what scene I'm looking at. He creates tension simply with his composition and layout. For covers today, it's up there with 100 Bullets (Dave Johnson) and other books with good covers like Losers, Y the Last Man and Fables. Impressive as hell.

But what I liked most about this was the stink factor. Yeah. When Robert introduced the idea that zombies don't attack each other due to a rudimentary sense of smell, I was like, "Great!" Any explanation will do but it's never really covered as to why zombies don't attack one another. But it got better. You just knew that walking into the middle of the zombie-infested city was not Rick's best idea. At least not his most well-thought-out. And it was like a time bomb, waiting for the plan to fall apart. And sure enough, you ratcheted that tension up and had it all go to pieces at the worst possible time.

Good job.

It really blows my mind that you write light-hearted stuff like Tales of the Realm and Invincible and then turn around and put out some mature, tense, character-driven work like Walking Dead. Keep exploring that range, man.

Thanks for another terrific issue,
Chris Piers

Thanks for the kind words, Piers. This year... I'm sending you a Christmas card... with a little something extra.

Just wanted to compliment you on "The Walking Dead." It's the best comic I've ever read. No joke. Great work on the #4's cover. When is #5 coming out? The long wait has been a killer. Keep up the great work.

-Tristan

Issue 5 will be out... a month ago by the time you read this. Sorry I couldn't get back to you sooner. This printing schedule is a mess.

Kirkman,

About time someone decided to canonize zombie lore! All bodies of the recently deceased get up and kill - the people they kill get up and kill. They do not require food or sustenance; they are driven by hunger as an instinct. Moreover, they do not run, speak, or use weapons! I'm glad that others like the Romero zombie world. Nobody I know even knew there were two sequels to Night of the Living Dead. Dawn of the Dead is my favorite movie. Why didn't I know this book was out when it started?!? I just found issue #2 on the shelf at my local comic shop after reading about it some time ago on NEWSARAMA.

Following Romero's formula is a recipe for success. Night shows the horror.

Dawn of the Dead establishes how and who comes back. Day gives the facts about how they walk around (while keeping the exact cause a mystery - it's also good that Romero distanced himself from the whole Venus probe in the 90s remake). More important than the facts on zombies is the social commentary that basically shows that man is not better than those walking corpses outside, killing each other and fighting while we should be uniting. Zombies do not kill each other! Everybody go buy the new Day of the Dead 2 disc DVD and pick up Dawn as soon as it comes out.

Love the book. Our hero finding his family was great. It was so expected it became unexpected and therefore a pleasant surprise. Keep up the good work!

Now loyal fan,
Chris Pitts,

Glad you like the book Chris, thanks man. Can someone confirm this even-better-than-the-current-Dawn-DVD-release version of the movie that's coming out in October. I'm hearing 5 discs and to be honest... it's making my heart skip a beat. I'd rather not buy this one coming out in March if I don't have to.

Walking Dead staff,

Just wanted to say that I am really enjoying The Walking Dead. I hadn't bought a comic book in probably 5 years. I stopped in a store the other day just to browse. It was there that I saw The Walking Dead, Issue #1. Being a huge fan of Romero's zombie trilogy (esp. Dawn) as well as 28 Days and Zombi, I was curious. I gotta say, you guys have really done an excellent job with the book. I was able to find Issue 3 in another store. I've seen #'s 2 and 4 on Ebay. Looking forward to picking them up as well. Keep up the great work and story. Being a zombie fan myself, there are so few quality zombie products out there, be it movies, books, etc. I truly hope this is a long lasting series.

Thanks,
Dave

With sales figures what they are I can guarantee we'll be around for a while. Oh and Dave... we almost went an ENTIRE letters column without mentioning 28 Days Later and then you had to go fuck that up. Thanks, man! At least it wasn't in reference to the opening scene of issue 1... that at least, is a step in the right direction.

And with that I bring another massive letters column to a close. Thanks for writing in, people. You know everyone here at The Walking Dead central loves you. Keep sending that email!!

See you next month.

-Robert Kirkman

INVINCIBLE

ISSUE #12

SHATTERED!

THE SHOCKING CONCLUSION OF THE
BIGGEST INVINCIBLE STORY YET!

KIRKMAN
& OTTLEY

04.04



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**“Engrossing as well as just plain gross.
Rather than take the obvious path,
Kirkman weaves a subtle and unexpected
tale of ordinary people trying to survive
in extraordinary times.”**

-Scott Kurtz





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